

Interviews

Agenda Item #	2
Meeting Date	March 5, 2007
Prepared By	Jessie Carpenter City Clerk
Approved By	Barbara B. Matthews City Manager

Discussion Item	Interviews of Applicants for the Council Compensation Committee - Tebabu Assefa, Steve Shapiro, Roberta Valente
Background	<p>As a result of the recommendations of the 2002 Council Compensation Committee, the City Code was amended to establish a process for periodic review of Council compensation. Beginning in 2007, and every four years thereafter, the Council is to appoint a committee of City residents to serve as the Council Compensation Committee. The Committee shall review the salaries of the Mayor and Councilmembers and make recommendations to the Council whether or not such salaries should be changed.</p> <p>Notice of the opportunity to apply to serve on the committee was published in the City Newsletter and posted on the web. A number of individuals have expressed interest, but to date only three have applied for appointment: Tebabu Assefa (Ward 4), Steve Shapiro (Ward 1), and Roberta Valente (Ward 3).</p>
Policy	<p><i>Takoma Park Code, Chapter 2.04.110</i></p> <p>Periodic Review of Council Compensation</p> <p>A. <i>Council Compensation Committee.</i> The Council shall appoint a committee of City residents, every four years beginning with calendar year 2007, to serve as the Council Compensation Committee. The Committee shall review the salaries of the Mayor and Councilmembers and make recommendations to the Council whether or not such salaries should be changed.</p> <p>B. <i>Principles of Compensation.</i> The Council Compensation Committee shall apply the following principles to guide its recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The positions of Mayor and Councilmember are part-time and should be treated that way; 2. Full monetary compensation for the Mayor and Councilmembers is not appropriate; 3. It is appropriate to monetarily compensate the Mayor and Councilmembers to some extent for their work; 4. Monetary compensation creates an obligation for the Mayor and Councilmembers to perform their jobs; 5. Monetary compensation provides status to the Mayor and Councilmembers; 6. The Mayor's salary should be greater than that of Councilmembers; and 7. Compensation for the Mayor and Councilmembers should be comparable to Maryland municipalities of similar size and complexity.

	<p><i>C. Effective Date of Council Salary Adjustment.</i> Any change in the salary paid to the Mayor and Councilmembers shall be adopted prior to the next municipal election and shall take effect only as to the next succeeding Mayor and Councilmembers as prescribed in Sections 302(c) and 304(c) of the Municipal Charter.</p>
Fiscal Impact	<p>Establishment of the committee will have minimal impact. Adjustments to Council compensation will be incorporated into the FY08 Budget and become effective for the Council elected in November 2007.</p> <p>Currently, the Mayor receives an annual salary of \$8,000; Councilmembers receive \$6,000 per year.</p>
Attachments	Applications for Appointment from Tebabu Assefa, Steve Shapiro, Roberta Valente
Recommendation	Interview applicants and consider them for appointment.
Special Consideration	

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT / REAPPOINTMENT TO
CITY BOARD, COMMISSION, OR COMMITTEE

Your Name: <u>TEBABU ASSEFA</u>	
Name of Committee: <u>COUNCIL Compensation Committee</u>	
Application for (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Appointment <input type="checkbox"/> Reappointment	
Date of Application: <u>Feb. 28</u>	
Briefly explain your interest in serving on this committee:	
<u>Public Service.</u>	
If you are applying for an initial appointment to the committee:	
1. Have you attended any meetings? <u>NO</u>	
2. Are you available to attend meetings at the scheduled time? <u>Yes</u>	
FOR COLTA APPLICATIONS ONLY:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Landlord/Agent <input type="checkbox"/> Tenant <input type="checkbox"/> City Homeowner	
If you are a landlord or agent, please indicate the number of rental units you operate within the city limits of Takoma Park: _____	

INSTRUCTIONS

Please submit this form to: City Clerk, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912; or by e-mail to _____ or by fax to 301-270-8794.

After receiving your completed application, a City staff member will contact you to make arrangements for an interview with the City Council (if an interview is required). In preparation for the interview, City Councilmembers, the Committee Chair, and City staff members may receive a copy of your application and any attachments. Page 1 of the application (only), will be posted to the City web page.

Note that the information on page 2 and any attachments will NOT be posted to the web.

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

**APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT / REAPPOINTMENT TO
CITY BOARD, COMMISSION, OR COMMITTEE**

Your Name: Steve Shapiro	
Name of Committee: Council Compensation	
Application for (check one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appointment <input type="checkbox"/> Reappointment	
Date of Application: 2/28/07	
Briefly explain your interest in serving on this committee:	
Contribute to my city.	
If you are applying for an initial appointment to the committee:	
1. Have you attended any meetings? No	
2. Are you available to attend meetings at the scheduled time? 7	
FOR COLTA APPLICATIONS ONLY:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Landlord/Agent <input type="checkbox"/> Tenant <input type="checkbox"/> City Homeowner	
If you are a landlord or agent, please indicate the number of rental units you operate within the city limits of Takoma Park: _____	

INSTRUCTIONS

Please submit this form to: City Clerk, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912; or by e-mail to Clerk@takomagov.org; or by fax to 301-270-8794.

After receiving your completed application, a City staff member will contact you to make arrangements for an interview with the City Council (if an interview is required). In preparation for the interview, City Councilmembers, the Committee Chair, and City staff members may receive a copy of your application and any attachments. Page 1 of the application (only), will be posted to the City web page.

Note that the information on page 2 and any attachments will NOT be posted to the web.

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT TO
CITY BOARD, COMMISSION, OR COMMITTEE

YOUR NAME: Roberta L. Valente

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Council Compensation Committee

APPLICATION FOR (CHECK ONE): ☒ APPOINTMENT ☐ REAPPOINTMENT

DATE OF APPLICATION: 2/22/07

BRIEFLY EXPLAIN YOUR INTEREST IN SERVING ON THIS COMMITTEE:

I have served on two other City Committees (Nuclear Free Zone and the Gun Task Force). In both cases, I tapped my expertise as a lawyer to the benefit of the Committees, by doing necessary research and considering the applicability of relevant laws. On a personal level, I was fascinated by the differences in opinions that cropped up on both Committees (particularly the Gun Task Force). Again, I was able to utilize my work-related skills in facilitation to acknowledge the differing viewpoints and help my fellow Committee members come to useful compromise positions solidly based in the law. I hope to offer these same skills to the Compensation Committee. Additionally, as a resident and taxpayer in Takoma Park, I'm well aware of citizen concerns about increasing budgetary costs. Yet I am also aware that my neighbors expect a lot of work from our Council. Looking at both sides and finding a solution that addresses the most important concerns of each is something I'd enjoy undertaking on this Committee.

IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR AN INITIAL APPOINTMENT TO THE COMMITTEE:

1. HAVE YOU ATTENDED ANY MEETINGS? No.
2. ARE YOU AVAILABLE TO ATTEND MEETINGS AT THE SCHEDULED TIME? Yes.